

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-12 are pending. Reconsideration and allowance based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizuguchi, et al. (US 6,310,885) in view of Sampathkumar (US 6,950,855) and claims 3-5, 7 and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizuguchi, Sampathkumar and Basani (US 6,718,361). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action relies upon Sampathkumar to teach a designation step of designating one of said nodes as a master node based on transmissions qualities among the nodes, designating other nodes as slave nodes, as recited in claim 1;

designating a node as a master node based on transmission qualities between nodes, designating nodes other nodes as slave nodes, as recited in claim 3;

one master node selected from among said nodes based on transmission qualities among said nodes, as recited in claim 8;

a master designation step of designating a node that becomes best in transmission quality between said node and other nodes, from among all nodes, as the master node, as recited in claim 7;

if its own node is designated as a master node logically star connected to other nodes and if there exists such a node that would become best in transmission quality when logical star connections with other were conducted in response to connection of a new node or a change of a communication state, then said processing unit conducts processing of ordering alteration of said

node to a master node and transferring communication parameters among all nodes currently held to a master node after alternation, as recited in claim 10; and

the master node that is selected from among all nodes and that is best in transmission quality with respect to other nodes, as recited in claim 12.

The Office Action admits that Mizuguchi and Basani fail to teach these features of applicants' independent claims and solely relies on Sampathkumar to provide the teachings absent in Mizuguchi and Basani. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that Sampathkumar is not prior art. Applicants note that the present application has a PCT filing date of June 12, 2001 and an effective priority date of July 28, 2000. The Sampathkumar reference earliest known priority date is January 18, 2002. Thus, the January 8, 2002 date is well after the PCT domestic priority date of June 12, 2001 and the foreign priority date of July 28, 2000. Thus, the Sampathkumar reference is not prior art.

Therefore, in view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that the rejections in the Office Action are improper. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

### Conclusion


For the above reasons, applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

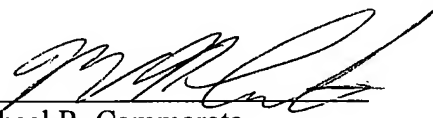
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: February 10, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

  
MRC/CJB:cb

By   
Michael R. Cammarata  
Registration No.: 39,491  
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP  
8110 Gatehouse Road  
Suite 100 East  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000  
Attorney for Applicant